U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2006-107-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC011243 & COC011409

PROJECT NAME: Replacement of Two Cathodic Protection Stations

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 1 S., R. 97 W., (COC011409)
Sec. 1, NW¼SE¼.

T. 1 S., R. 101 W., (COC011243)
Sec. 18, SE¼NW¼, SW¼NE¼.

APPLICANT: Northwest Pipeline Corporation (NWP)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional): None

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: At locations on the Ignacio/Sumas pipeline (COC011243) and the Piceance Creek Lateral (COC011409), NWP has detected areas where the cathodic protection is no at acceptable levels.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the replacement of two cathodic protection stations that are not working at acceptable levels. New facilities need to be constructed that will correct the situation. Cathodic protection facilities are safety measures that inhibit corrosion of the pipeline. The work will entail placement of rectifiers, positive cables and the deep well sites, which will require a temporary work space of 100 feet by 100 feet at each site. A permanent area of 20 feet in width on each side will be required for the rectifier, positive cable and deep well. Construction is planned for the spring of 2006 dependent upon the contractor's schedule and will take five days or less at each site.

The proposed action will be amendments to existing rights-of-way COC011243 and COC011409. The term of the amendments will run concurrent with the original right-of-way grants. The Plan of Development for this project will be made a part of the grants. The original grants and subsequent amendments remain in full force and effect.

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, the application would be denied and the situation would remain the same.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: The inadequate cathodic protection stations poses a safety risk for these two pipelines.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The entire White River Resource area has been classified as either attainment or unclassified for all pollutants, and most of the area has been designated prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) class II. The proposed action is not located within a ten mile radius of any special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas. The air quality criteria pollutant likely to be most affected by the proposed actions is the level of inhalable particulate matter, specifically particles ten microns or less in diameter (PM_{10}) associated with fugitive dust. In addition, slight increases in the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone

(secondary pollutant), nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide may also occur during construction due to the combustion of fossil fuels associated with construction operations. Unfortunately, no monitoring data is available for the survey area. However, it is apparent that current air quality near the proposed location is good because only one location on the western slope (Grand Junction, CO) is monitoring for criteria pollutants other than PM_{10}. Furthermore, the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) estimates the maximum PM_{10} levels (24-hour average) in rural portions of western Colorado like the Piceance Basin to be near 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$). This estimate is well below the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for PM_{10} (24-hour average) of 150 $\mu g/m^3$.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Surface disturbance will be minimal and adverse impacts to air quality are not expected.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Re-vegetate disturbed areas with a BLM approved seed mixture as outlined in the vegetation section of this document.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Greasewood Gulch Cathodic Protection Station (CPS): The location of the proposed CPS station is in an area that is covered by two different cultural resources inventories conducted at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (McKibben 2003, Compliance Dated 5/14/2003, Lubinski et. al. 1991, Compliance dated 1991) with no cultural resources in the inventoried area.

No Name Truck Trail CPS site: The location of the proposed CPS station is in the Canyon Pintado National Register District. Inventory of the district indicates that there are currently no known cultural sites at the location of the CPS station.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Greasewood Gulch Cathodic Protection Station (CPS): There are no known cultural resources located where the CPS unit is proposed. Therefore, there would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the Proposed Action.

No Name Truck Trail CPS Station: The proposed action will not impact any known cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop

activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

In addition, for the No Name Truck Trail CPS Station: If it becomes necessary to excavate anything other that an auger hole to repair or upgrade the CPS station and the anode bed an archaeological monitor shall be required for all such excavations. Monitoring of an auger hole is not considered productive.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The Greasewood site has no known noxious weeds. The invasive alien cheatgrass is present at the site primarily as a result of historic grazing practices. The T1S. R101W. site is a disturbed site composed almost exclusively of non-native species primarily cheatgrass, crested wheatgrass and Japanese Brome.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed project will disturb about 1/4 acre per site. Soil disturbance at the Greasewood site may result in an increase in the composition of cheatgrass at the site. Prompt and effective revegetation of the areas of earthen disturbance will minimize this impact. The Rangely site is expected to return to previous species condition and composition regardless of reclamation effort. Because of the saline nature of the soils past reclamation has for the most part been unsuccessful.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impact.

Mitigation: The operator will be required to monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post disturbance and eradicate all noxious and invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Vegetation surrounding site COC011243, located adjacent to Highway 139, is comprised of greasewood and to a lesser extent, basin big sage. The herbaceous understory is dominated by invasive, annuals - namely cheatgrass. Due to the degraded conditions and proximity to a heavily traveled corridor (Hwy 139), this site provides limited nesting habitat for breeding migratory birds. Site COC011409, located in Greasewood Gulch, is encompassed by basin big sage with an herbaceous understory comprised of native perennial grasses and scattered cheatgrass. This site is adjacent to both an area previously disturbed by oil and gas activities in addition to a well-maintained county road. Similar to site COCO11243, this location provides limited habitat for nesting functions of breeding birds – due mainly to degraded conditions and proximity to a well-developed roadway.

Those species which may nest adjacent to the project area include: vesper's sparrow, rock wren and blue gray gnat catcher. Green-tailed towhee, a species of higher conservation interest may also be found adjacent to these locations. All of the above species are widespread and abundant throughout the Resource Area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: It is unlikely the proposed action will have any measurable influence on affected populations of migratory birds within or adjacent to the project area. Both sites are adjacent to previously disturbed areas and/or heavily traveled corridors - areas that typically assume little nesting activity. Replacement of the CPS will involve a minimal amount of surface disturbance (~200 sq. ft) and will be accomplished within a short timeframe (< 5 days). In addition, work will commence in early to mid-July, near the time most young have fledged, and therefore should have negligible impacts on nesting success.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to further influence migratory bird nesting activity.

Mitigation: None

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on populations or habitats associated with federally listed animal species.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no potential influence on federally listed animal species under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on populations or habitats associated with federally listed animals and would, therefore, have no potential to influence the status or application of applicable land health standards.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The applicant shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid waste generated by the proposed actions.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Surface Water: Replacement of cathodic protection station on the Ignacio/Sumas pipeline is located in the Douglas Creek watershed. Douglas Creek is a perennial tributary to the White River. The cathodic protection station to be replaced on the Piceance Creek Lateral is situated in the Greasewood Gulch catchment area. Greasewood Gulch is an ephemeral tributary to Piceance Creek which is also a tributary to the White River. The White River is a tributary to the Green River (in Utah) which is a tributary to the Colorado River.

The "Status of Water Quality in Colorado –2006" (CDPHE 2006b) and Regulation No. 37 Classifications and Numeric Standards for Lower Colorado River Basin (CDPHE 2005a) were reviewed for information relating to drainages within the project area. Stream segment 16 of the White River Basin is defined as all tributaries to Piceance Creek, including all wetlands, lakes and reservoirs, from the source to the confluence with the White River, except for the specific

listings in segments 17, 19, and 20. The State has classified stream segment 16 of the White River Basin as "Use Protected" and further designated as beneficial for the following uses: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The antidegradation review requirements in the Antidegradation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for three parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l), pH = 6.5 - 9.0, and Fecal Coliform = 2,000/100 milliliters (ml) and 630/100 ml E. coli. Numeric standards for inorganic compounds and metals can be found within Regulation No. 37 Classifications and Numeric Standards for Lower Colorado River Basin (CDPHE 2005a).

Stream segment 22 of the White River Basin is defined as all tributaries to the White River, including all wetlands, lakes, and reservoirs, from a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek to the Colorado/Utah boarder, except for specific listings in segment 23. The State has also classified stream segment 22 of the White River Basin as "Use Protected" and further designated as beneficial for the following uses: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 1b, and Agriculture. The antidegradation review requirements in the Antidegradation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for three parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l), pH = 6.5 - 9.0, and Fecal Coliform = 325/100 milliliters (ml) and 205/100 ml E. coli. Numeric standards for inorganic compounds and metals can be found within Regulation No. 37 Classifications and Numeric Standards for Lower Colorado River Basin (CDPHE 2005a).

Newly promulgated Colorado Regulations Nos. 93 and 94 (CDPHE 2006c and 2006d, respectively) were reviewed for information related to the proposed project area drainages. Regulation No. 93 is the State's Section 303(d) list of water-quality-limited segments requiring Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The 2006 303(d) list of segments needing development of TMDLs includes two segments within the White River - segment 9b, White River tributaries North and South Forks to Piceance Creek, specifically the Flag Creek portion (for impairment from selenium with a low priority for TMDL development) and segment 22, tributaries to the White River, Douglas Creek to the Colorado/Utah boarder, specifically West Evacuation Wash, and **Douglas Creek** (sediment impairments). Regulation 94 is the State's list of water bodies identified for monitoring and evaluation, to assess water quality and determine if a need for TMDLs exists. The list includes two White River segments that are potentially impaired – 9 (Flag Creek) and 22 (Soldier Creek).

Ground Water: Replacement of cathodic protection station on the Ignacio/Sumas pipeline is located in alluvial material adjacent to Douglas Creek (Douglas Creek Alluvial Aquifer). Surface geology at the cathodic protection station to be replaced on the Piceance Creek Lateral is situated on the Tertiary aged Uinta Formation (primarily of interbedded sandstone and shale) approximately 0.25 up gradient of the Piceance Creek Alluvial Aquifer. Ground water from deeper zones is not likely to be affected by construction of the two new cathodic protection stations.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Failure to successfully re-vegetate disturbed surfaces with preferred species may increase erosive potential and elevate

sediment/salt loads to Douglas Creek and Piceance Creek, the White River and eventually the Colorado River. Given the affected pipelines close proximity to perennial streams and alluvial materials, leakage from pipelines could have significant adverse environmental impacts to water quality in the White River Basin. However, replacement of the two cathodic protection stations will help detect pipeline corrosion that could compromise the structural integrity of the pipeline resulting in leakage.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Cathodic protection stations would not be constructed. Corrosion would not be inhibited and the structural integrity of the pipeline would be reduced resulting in elevated potential for leakage compromising water quality in the White River Basin.

Mitigation: Topsoil and spoil will be placed at least 10 feet from the edge of any water flow paths (ephemeral or perennial). Erosion and sediment control measures will be installed adjacent to natural drainage paths to prevent flow of topsoil or spoil into them. Erosion and sediment control measures will be maintained until all disturbed surfaces are stabilized. All disturbed surfaces will be recontoured and reseeded as outlined in the Vegetation section of this document.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: Stream segment 16 of the White River Basin currently meet water quality standards set by the state. Many of the upper tributaries which are ephemeral and flow in direct response to storm events do not meet the standards during periods of flow. Following suggested mitigation measures, water quality in stream segment 16 should continue to meet standards.

Douglas Creek (Stream segment 22 of the White River Basin) has been identified on the State's 303(d) List of Water-Quality-Limited streams requiring TMDLS and is currently not meeting standards (sediment). However, the proposed cathodic protection station in Douglas Creek is situated on the east side of Hwy. 139. Highway 139 is located between the proposed site and Douglas Creek and will trap any sediment produced from the site before reaching Douglas Creek. The proposed action will not improve or deteriorate current water quality in Douglas Creek. Douglas Creek will continue to not meet standards for sediment impairments.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: There are no wetlands or riparian areas potentially affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on wetlands or riparian areas.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no effect on existing wetlands and riparian areas under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: Replacement of the two cathodic protection stations would have no conceivable influence on the condition or function of wetlands and riparian areas, and therefore, would have no influence on continued maintenance of associated land health standards.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, threatened, endangered or sensitive plants exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species Public Land Health Standard is not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The following data is a product of an order III soil survey conducted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Rio Blanco County, CO. Table 1 highlights important soil characteristics. A complete summary of this information can be found at the White River Field Office. No "fragile soils" have been mapped near the project area.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Affected Acres w/in 30 m	Slope	Ecological site	Salinity	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
36	Glendive fine sandy loam	1.83	2-4%	Foothills Swale	2-4	Slow	Slight	>60
74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop complex	0.14	5-65%	PJ Woodlands/Clayey Slopes	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	10-20
89	Tisworth fine sandy loam	1.62	0-5%	Alkaline Slopes	>4	Rapid	Moderate	>60
91	Torriorthents-Rock Outcrop complex	0.01	15-90%	Stoney Foothills		Rapid	Very high	10-20

36-Glendive fine sandy loam (2 to 4 percent slopes) is a deep, well drained soil, formed in alluvium and found along alluvial valley floors. Elevation is 5,800 to 7,200 feet. The average annual precipitation is 14 to 17 inches, the average annual air temperature is 42 to 45 degrees F, and the average frost-free period is 80 to 105 days. Typically, the surface layer is pale brown fine sandy loam 6 inches thick. The underlying material to a depth of 60 inches or more is very pale brown, stratified fine sandy loam that has thin lenses of loamy fine sand to sandy clay loam. The soil is calcareous throughout. In some areas the surface layer is channery fine sandy loam. Permeability of this Glendive soil is moderately rapid. Available water capacity is moderate. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. Runoff is slow, and the hazard of water erosion is slight. The soil is subject to rare periods of flooding.

74-Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex (5 to 65 percent slopes) is located on foothills and ridges. The native vegetation is mainly pinyon and juniper trees with an understory of shrubs and grasses. Elevation is 5,800 to 7,200 feet. The average annual precipitation is 13 to 16 inches, the average annual air temperature is 42 to 45 degrees F, and the average frost-free period is 75 to 105 days. The Rentsac soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from sandstone. Typically, the surface layer is grayish brown channery loam about 5 inches thick. The next layer is brown very channery loam about 4 inches thick. The underlying material is very pale brown extremely flaggy loam 7 inches thick. Sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to sandstone ranges from 10 to 20 inches. In some areas the surface layer is quite variable in texture. Permeability of the Rentsac soil is moderately rapid. Available water capacity is very low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate to very high.

The Moyerson soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from shale. Typically, the surface layer is light gray stony clay loam about 2 inches thick. The next layer is gray clay loam about 8 inches thick. The underlying material is gray clay 7 inches thick. Shale is at a depth of 17 inches. Depth to shale ranges from 10 to 20 inches. In some areas the surface layer is silty clay loam, silty clay, light clay, or bouldery clay loam. Permeability of the Moyerson soil is slow. Available water capacity is low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is medium to rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is very high.

89-Tisworth fine sandy loam (0 to 5 percent slopes) is a deep, well drained soil found on valley floors and broad fans. It formed in alluvium derived dominantly from sedimentary rock with a high content of gypsum and alkaline salt. Areas are elongated and are 30 to 300 acres. The native vegetation is mainly salt-tolerant shrubs and grasses. Elevation is 5,800 to 7,000 feet. The average annual precipitation is 13 to 15 inches, the average annual air temperature is 42 to 45 degrees F, and the average frost-free period is 80 to 105 days. Typically, the surface layer is pale brown fine sandy loam 4 inches thick. The subsoil is light yellowish brown clay loam 7 inches thick. The upper 9 inches of the underlying material is very pale brown fine sandy loam that has fine crystals and seams of gypsum and calcium carbonate, and the lower part to a depth of 60 inches or more is very pale brown fine sandy loam. Permeability of this Tisworth soil is slow. Available water capacity is moderate. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate.

91-Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex (15 to 90 percent slopes) is located on extremely rough and eroded areas on mountains, hills, ridges, and canyonsides. Slopes mainly face south. The native vegetation is mainly sparse shrubs and grasses with some pinyon and juniper trees. Elevation is 5,100 to 7,500 feet. The average annual precipitation is 8 to 18 inches, the average annual air temperature is 40 to 50 degrees F, and the average frost-free period is 70 to 130 days. This unit is 50 percent Torriorthents that have slopes of 15 to 65 percent and 30 percent Rock outcrop that has slopes of 35 to 90 percent. Torriorthents are very shallow to moderately deep and are will drained and somewhat excessively drained. They formed in residuum and colluvium derived dominantly from sandstone, shale, limestone, and siltstone. Torriorthents are highly variable. No single profile of Torriorthents is typical, but one commonly observed in the survey area has a surface layer of pale brown channery loam about 3 inches thick. The underlying material is very pale brown channery loam, very channery loam, or fine sandy loam about 13 inches thick. Shale or sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Torriorthents are calcareous throughout. Permeability of the Torriorthents is moderate. Available water capacity is very low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is very rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is very high.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Given the calcareous nature and high concentration of gypsum of the affected soils (soil unit 36 and 89), soil piping and gully formation may result if soils are further exposed to erosional processes. Construction activities may result in increased soil compaction which will reduce infiltration and permeability rates increasing the erosive potential of overland flows. Any leaks or spills of environmentally unfriendly substances (e.g. diesel fuel) could compromise the productivity of affected soils.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Cathodic protection stations would not be constructed. Corrosion would not be inhibited and the structural integrity of the pipeline would be reduced resulting in elevated potential for leakage compromising the health and productivity of affected soils.

Mitigation: Utility truck traffic should be kept to a minimum to reduce the potential impacts of soil compaction. To further mitigate resource damage, timing of construction operations should be planned to avoid wet periods when soils are saturated (e.g. during spring thaw, after late summer monsoons).

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: At the present time, soils in the vicinity of the proposed action exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, landform, climate, and geologic processes. Following construction of cathodic protection stations, soils will continue to meet standards.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The Greasewood site is a Stony Foothills ecological site and is dominated by basin big sagebrush with an understory of cheatgrass, indian ricegrass and beardless bluebunch wheatgrass. The Douglas Site was previously disturbed by pipeline

construction and contains non-native species consisting of cheatgrass, Japanese brome and crested wheatgrass.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Soil disturbance at the Greasewood site may result in an increase in the composition of cheatgrass at the site. Following installation of the cathodic protection station , the Douglas site would develop a plant community of non-native species as described above. Because of the extreme site conditions of low precipitation and saline soils this site is difficult to reclaim.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Revegetation will commence immediately after construction and will not be delayed until the following fall. Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas at the Greasewood site with Native Seed mix #3. Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Drill seeding is the preferred method of application

Native Seed mix #3		
Western wheatgrass (Rosanna)	2	Gravelly 10"-14", Pinyon/Juniper Woodland, Stony Foothills, 147 (Mountain Mahogany)
Bluebunch wheatgrass (Whitmar)	2	
Needle and thread	1	
Indian ricegrass (Rimrock)	2	
Fourwing saltbush (Wytana)	1	
Utah sweetvetch	1	

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Vegetation in the Greasewood part of the project area currently meets the Standard on a watershed and landscape basis and is expected to continue to meet the Standard in the future following implementation of the proposed action.
The Douglas site does not meet the standard for plant communities and is not expected to in the short term.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no aquatic systems potentially affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action involves minimal surface disturbance and therefore would have no influence on aquatic wildlife or habitat.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no effect on existing aquatic wildlife or habitat under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Replacement of the two cathodic protection stations would have no conceivable influence on the condition or function of aquatic habitats or wildlife associated with them, and therefore, would have no influence on continued maintenance of associated land health standards.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The greasewood and sagebrush habitats surrounding site COC011243 are considered general winter range for mule deer. These habitats are typically occupied from November through April. The basin big sagebrush habitats which encompass site COC011409 are categorized by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as severe winter range - a specialized component of winter range that periodically supports virtually all an area's deer under the most severe winter conditions (i.e., extreme cold and heavy snowpack). These ranges typically sustain big game use from October through May.

While raptors such as red-tailed hawks may opportunistically forage throughout the area, big sagebrush and greasewood habitats do not provide suitable substrate for raptor nesting. The project would involve no cliff nest sites of golden eagle or red-tailed hawk.

Nongame mammals and birds using this area are typical and widely distributed in extensive like habitats across the Resource Area and northwest Colorado; there are no narrowly endemic or highly specialized species known to inhabit those lands potentially influenced by this action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: It is unlikely the replacement of either CPS will have any long-term negative impacts on big game. Construction activities will involve less than one acre of surface disturbance and will be completed outside the critical timeframe with respect to winter timing restrictions for big game. Regarding forage and cover availability for big game and nongame species, the small amount of surface disturbance immediately adjacent to heavily traveled corridors would be inconsequential in scale and duration.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to further influence migratory bird nesting activity.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project site meets the land health standard for terrestrial communities. Replacement of the cathodic protection stations as proposed would have no functional influence on attributes of community health.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals		X	
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise	X		
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: Greasewood Gulch Cathodic Protection Station (CPS): The proposed CPS location is in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM, WRFO has classified as a Condition I fossil formation meaning it is known to produce fossils of scientific interest. However, the location appears to be located in an area of Quaternary alluvium which is not generally considered fossil bearing.

No Name Truck Trail CPS station: The proposed CPS station is located in an area generally mapped as the Mesa Verde Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM, WRFO has classified as a Condition I fossil formation, meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources. However, it is possible that the location of the CPS unit and the anode bed are actually in some quaternary alluvium which is not considered fossiliferous.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Greasewood Gulch Cathodic Protection Station (CPS): It is not considered very likely that fossil resources will be impacted unless it becomes necessary to do excavations, beyond the anode bed well, into the underlying rock formations to repair or upgrade the CPS unit.

No Name Truck Trail CPS station: unless it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying rock formation to level a work place or perform other repairs to the CPS station it is unlikely that fossil resources will be impacted. However, such excavations do become necessary for some reason then fossil resources are at risk of damage.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

In addition, for the No Name Truck Trail CPS station: If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying rock for anything other than the anode bed well a paleontological monitor shall be required to be present during all such excavations.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: There are two new cathodic protection stations that need to be installed due to failure of the old ones. They are on the Ignacio/Sumas (COC011243) and the Piceance Creek Lateral (COC011409).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the replacement to two cathodic protection stations that are not working at acceptable levels. There are several existing rights-of-way in the project area:

Piceance Creek Lateral:	COC52705	Colorado Interstate Gas	Pipeline
	COC67534	White River Electric	Power line
Ignacio/Sumas:	COC58306	BP American	Pipeline, Access road
	COC0102645	Moon Lake Electric	Power line
	COC26096	Century Telephone	Phone line
	COC19253B	Xcel Energy	Pipeline

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative the application would be denied and the situation would remain unchanged.

Mitigation: 1. The Colorado One Call procedure will be implemented before any surface disturbance may take place.

2. The holder will adhere to the terms, conditions, and stipulations of the original right-of-way grants and subsequent amendments for COC011243 and COC011409, which remain in full force and effect.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area with a VRM III classification. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is located in an area with existing oil/gas wells and associated compressor stations, pipelines, and power lines. The addition of the above ground facilities would be possibly visible to casual observer for a brief period of time, but would not dominate the view. The change to the characteristic landscape would be low, and the objectives of the VRM III classification would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: None.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of these activities are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Air Pollution Control Division (APCD), 2005. "Colorado Air Quality Data Report – 2004," September 2005.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC), 2005a. Regulation No. 37 Classifications and Numeric Standards for Lower Colorado River Basin. Ammended December 12, 2005 and Effective March 2, 2006.

CDPHE-WQCC, 2006b. "Status of Water Quality in Colorado – 2006, The Update to the 2002 and 2004 305(b) Report," April 2006.

CDPHE-WQCC, 2006c. "Regulation No. 93, 2006 Section 303(d) List Water-Quality-Limited Segments Requiring TMDLs," effective April 30.

CDPHE-WQCC, 2006d. "Regulation No. 94, Colorado's Monitoring and Evaluation List," effective April 30.

Lubinski, Patrick M., Anne McKibben, and Michael D. Metcalf
1991 Colorado Interstate Gas Company Uinta Basin Lateral 20" Pipeline: Class III Cultural Resource Interim Report and Treatment Plan Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

McKibben, Anne
2003 Veritas DGC's Piceance Creek 2-D Seismic Prospect, Part 1, lines 21 and 3: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species, Vegetation, Rangeland Management
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Melissa J. Kindall	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Soils
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Bob Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Melissa J. Kindall	Range Technician	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2006-107-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. In addition, for the No Name Truck Trail CPS Station: If it becomes necessary to excavate anything other that an auger hole to repair or upgrade the CPS station and the anode bed an archaeological monitor shall be required for all such excavations. Monitoring of an auger hole is not considered productive.

4. The holder will be required to monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post disturbance and eradicate all noxious and invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

5. The holder shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid waste generated by the proposed action.

6. Utility truck traffic should be kept to a minimum to reduce the potential impacts of soil compaction. To further mitigate resource damage, timing of construction operations should be planned to avoid wet periods when soils are saturated (e.g. during spring thaw, after late summer monsoons).

7. Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas at the Greasewood site with Native Seed mix #3. Revegetation will commence immediately after construction and will not be delayed until the following fall. Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Drill seeding is the preferred method of application

Native Seed mix #3		
Western wheatgrass (Rosanna)	2	Gravelly 10"-14", Pinyon/Juniper Woodland, Stony Foothills, 147 (Mountain Mahogany)
Bluebunch wheatgrass (Whitmar)	2	
Needle and thread	1	
Indian ricegrass (Rimrock)	2	
Fourwing saltbush (Wytana)	1	
Utah sweetvetch	1	

8. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

9. In addition, for the No Name Truck Trail CPS station: If it becomes necessary to excavate

into the underlying rock for anything other than the anode bed well a paleontological monitor shall be required to be present during all such excavations.

10. The Colorado One Call procedure will be implemented before any surface disturbance may take place.

11. The holder will adhere to the terms, conditions, and stipulations of the original right-of-way grants and subsequent amendments for COC011243 and COC011409, which remain in full force and effect.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff every five years.

NAME OF PREPARER: Penny Brown

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 6/29/06

ATTACHMENTS: General location map of the proposed action.

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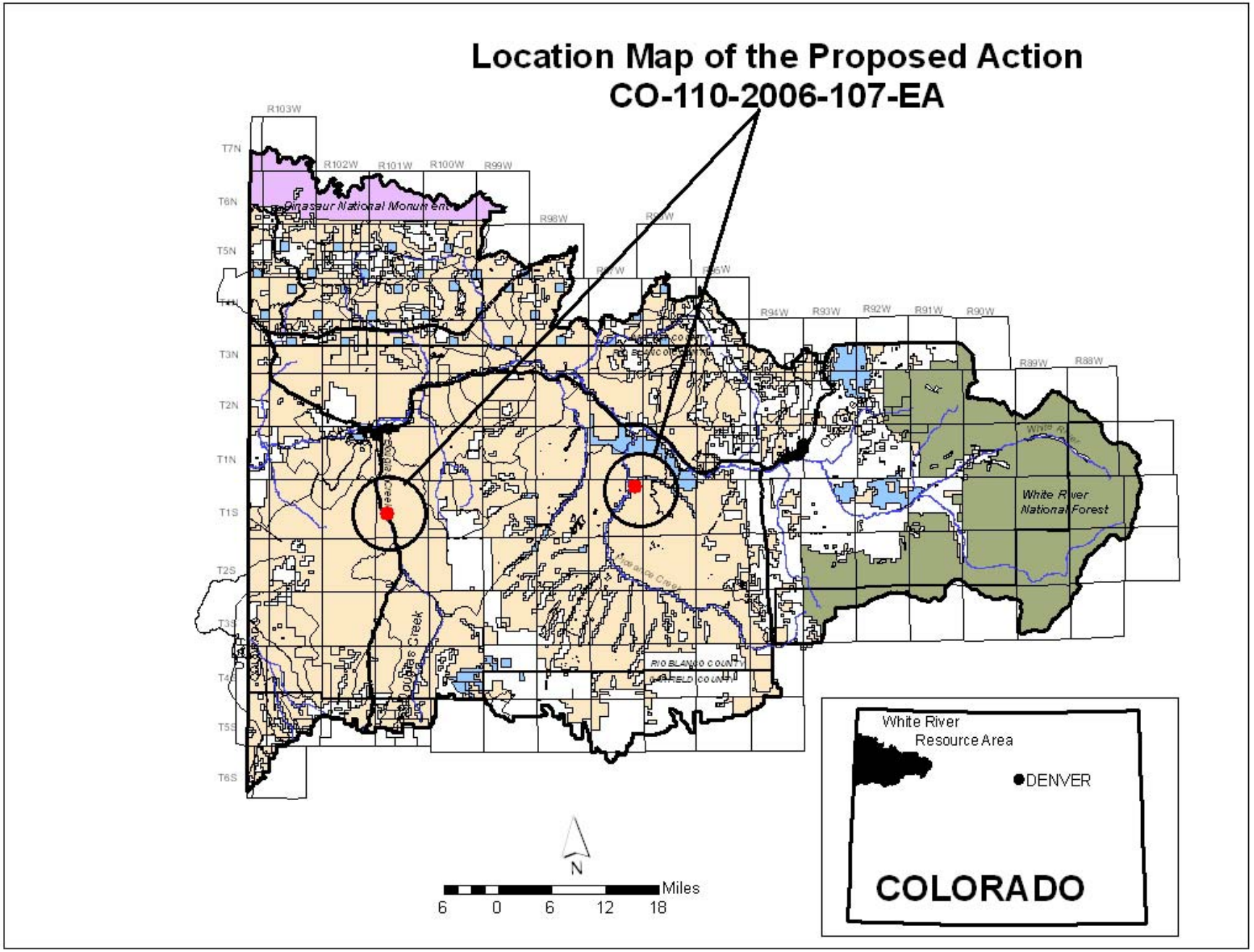
Location Map of the Proposed Action
CO-110-2006-107-EA
R103W
R102W
R101W
R100W
R99W
R98W
R94W
R93W
R92W
R91W
R90W
R89W
R88W
T7N
T6N
T5N
T3N
T2N
T1N
T1S
T2S
T6S
Dinosaur National Monument
White River National Forest
Douglas Creek
RIO BLANCO COUNTY
GARFIELD COUNTY
N
Miles
6 0 6 12 18
White River Resource Area
DENVER
COLORADO